

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
220 E Market St  
Meeker, CO 81641

**Section 390**  
**Categorical Exclusion for**  
**Oil and Gas Development**

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0082-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0084-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0085-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0086-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0087-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0088-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0089-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0090-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0091-CX  
DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0092-CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC60732

PROJECT NAME: WPX's request to drill an additional 10 wells on the existing RGU 43-23-198 well pad

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T. 1 S., R. 98 W., Sec. 23, 6<sup>th</sup> Principle Meridian

APPLICANT: WPX Energy Rocky Mountain, LLC.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: WPX Energy has requested authorization to drill ten additional wells on the existing RGU 43-23-198 well pad. The operator has confirmed that this action will not require the construction of any new road or pipeline corridors; the existing road and pipeline corridors will be used to service the ten proposed wells. The operator has also confirmed that the existing well pad is large enough to accommodate the additional wells. Perceived impacts associated with construction operations, drilling nine natural gas wells and installation of road and pipeline infrastructure was completed in CO-110-2013-0084-EA.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3) the following plan:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Language: "Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values."

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:** The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) prescribed five categorical exclusions (CX) for activities whose purpose is for the exploration of oil or gas.

The Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under the Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act, #1: *"Individual surface disturbances of less than five acres so long as the total surface disturbance on the lease is not greater than 150 acres and site-specific analysis in a document prepared pursuant to the NEPA has been previously completed."*

**Documentation**

The BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1) provides specific instructions for using this CX.

1) Is surface disturbance associated with the Proposed Action less than five acres?

*The operator has confirmed that this action will not require the construction of any new road or pipeline corridors; the existing road and pipeline corridors will be used to service the ten proposed wells. The operator has also confirmed that the existing well pad is large enough to accommodate the additional wells.*

2) Is there less than 150 acres of surface disturbance, including the Proposed Action, on the entire leasehold?

*Estimates of surface disturbance within the lease (COC60732 at the surface location) that are most likely attributed to oil and gas exploration and production activities equal approximately 37.7 acres. This area represents 3 percent of the total area of the lease, which is approximately 1,207 acres in size.*

3) Is the Proposed Action within the boundaries of an area included in a site-specific NEPA document? (The NEPA document must have analyzed the exploration and/or development of oil and gas (not just leasing) and the action/activity being considered must be within the boundaries of the area analyzed in the environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The NEPA document need not have addressed the specific permit or application being considered.)

*Yes. Potential impacts associated with drilling natural gas wells were reviewed in CO-110-2013-0084-EA (signed on 10/24/2013).*

**INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:** Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 5/20/2014. External

scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 5/28/2014.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	5/21/2014
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	5/20/2014
Justina Thorsen	Biological Technician - Plants	Special Status Plant Species	5/27/2014

**REMARKS:**

*Cultural Resources:* The proposed well pad location has been inventoried at the Class III (100 Percent pedestrian) level (Conner and Davenport 2013, compliance dated 11-26-2013, Mills 2012 compliance dated 5/7/2012) which indicates that there are no new impacts to cultural resources if ten additional wells are added to the well pad location.

*Native American Religious Concerns:* No Native American religious concerns are known in the area, and none have been noted by Northern Ute Tribal authorities. Should recommended inventories or future consultations with Tribal authorities reveal the existence of such sensitive properties, appropriate mitigation and/or protection measures may be undertaken.

*Paleontological Resources:* the new wells are located in an area generally mapped as the Uinta Formation which the BLM has categorized as a Potential Fossil Yield Classification 5 formation indicating that it is known to produce scientifically noteworthy fossils. If it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying sedimentary rock there is a potential for impact fossils. Any impacts to fossil could result in a long term, permanent, irreversible and irretrievable loss of data from the regional paleontological database.

*Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species:* No threatened or endangered animal species are known to inhabit or derive important direct use from the project area; no additional species have become listed and circumstances remain the same as those analyzed in the parent document. In conformance with the conservation measures included in the Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO)(ES/GJ-6-CO-08-F-0006) issued for Colorado's fluid mineral development program, flow volumes depleted from endangered fish habitat in the Upper Colorado River system attributable to the drilling of additional wells (approximately 55 acre-feet) would be included in WRFO's annual report to the Colorado State Office as detailed in the parent document. Other wildlife resources affected by the drilling of additional wells on this existing location would be identical to those addressed in the parent document.

*Threatened and Endangered Plant Species:* Surveys were performed by West Water Engineering for the project area in 2012. No federally threatened species were observed within 600 meters of the project boundary and no BLM sensitive species were observed within 100 meters of the project boundary. There is no special status plant species concerns associated with the Proposed Action since it will occur on existing disturbance.

## **REFERENCES CITED:**

Armstrong, Harley J., and David G. Wolny

- 1989 Paleontological Resources of Northwest Colorado: A Regional Analysis. Museum of Western Colorado, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Conner, Carl E., and Barbara Davenport

- 2013 Class III Cultural Resource Inventory Report for the Proposed RGU 22-26-198 and RGU 43-23-198 Well Locations and Related Access in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for WPX Energy Rocky Mountain, LLC. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado (13-11-25, OAH # RB.LM.R1339)

Mills, Hannah

- 2012 Class III Cultural Resource inventory for the Proposed Federal RGU #43-23-198 Well Location and Related Access Route in Rio Blanco County, Colorado for WPX Energy Rocky Mountain, LLC. Grand River Institute, Grand Junction, Colorado. (12-11-10: OAH # RB.LM.NR2300)

Schwendler, Rebecca, Sarah Baer, Karen Reed, Scott Phillips, Scott Slessman, Matthew Bandy, Nicole Kromarek, Scott Bowen, Max Wolk, Caryn M. Berg, Paul Burnett, Tom Witt, Sean Doyle, Michelle Delmas, Michael Cregger, John Kennedy, Judy Cooper, Zonna Barnes, Amanda Cohen, Cynthia Manseau, Michael Retter, Dan Shosky, and Erin Salisbury

- 2008 A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Ryan Gulch 3-D Geophysical Exploration Project, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Broomfield, Colorado. (09-127-01: OAH # RB.LM.R1083)

Tweto, Ogden

- 1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. United States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginia.

**MITIGATION:** The following mitigation is based on that found in CO-110-2013-0084-EA and applies to drilling and maintenance activities associated with the proposed 10 natural gas wells:

### **Timing Limitations**

1. Activities (including construction, drilling etc.) associated with the Proposed Action will not be permitted to take place from January 1 through April 30 to avoid disruption of big game during the critical winter period. The WRFO will except/modify RMP-prescribed timing limitations for those projects (via Sundry Notice) where there is written documentation affirming consistency with the WMP.

### **Pre-Construction Activities and Notifications**

2. The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to beginning all construction-related activities associated with this project that result in disturbance of surface soils. Construction-related activities may include, but are not limited to, pad and road construction, clearing pipeline corridors, trenching, etc. Notification of all

construction-related activities, regardless of size, that result in disturbance of surface soils as a result of this project is required.

3. Construction activity should take place entirely within the areas authorized in the ROW grants and temporary use permits.
4. Construction equipment shall be cleaned prior to entering public land at a location and in a manner that does not result in further weed spread.
5. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.
6. The forty acre area around the proposed well pad 42-26 198 center stake must be inventoried before construction to determine if any more fossil bones have been exposed in the area where a Titanotheres skull was recorded during earlier inventory efforts.
7. Prior to any construction, a representative will coordinate with the appropriate WRFO Rangeland Management Specialist (Mary Taylor 970-878-3807) to conduct a field inspection of the rangeland improvement project (water line) and address how to maintain the function of the waterline and ensure that it is fully functional prior to scheduled grazing use in June of 2014. The operator will repair any future damage to this water line caused by operational activities of the pit and associated facilities. Any damage to the pasture division fence caused by construction must be repaired to BLM specifications in a timely manner (to prevent livestock movement between these two pastures).
8. WPX shall notify NSI of their plans to drill wells on both well pads prior to the commencement of surface disturbing activities to coordinate the mobilization of equipment to the drill site and drilling operations to minimize interference with NSI operations.
9. WPX shall inform NSI during drilling and cementing of the surface casing and during fracing operations.
10. To assure that the road plans will be protective of soil resources, a road plan will be submitted via Sundry Notice for BLM approval for well pad 43-23-198 that describes and includes the following:
  - a) An updated plan diagram that shows proposed BMPs for culvert outlets and more specific design standards of the planned access roads planned.
  - b) Some documentation of coordination of the access road design with Natural Soda from the plant to the beginning of BLM Road 1148.
  - c) How public access will be maintained on BLM Road 1148 during construction, drilling and production.
11. To avoid additional disturbance that may result in erosion of soils around pads, when brush is not sufficient to maintain perimeter brush barrier as shown on Plat 5 E for well pads, waddles or fiber rolls will be used instead of toe trenches for perimeter control. Alternatively a suitable BMP plan may be developed to be approved by BLM that does not require trenches for perimeter control.
12. During pad, road, and pipeline layout, consideration will be given to maintaining old-growth stands in their entirety. Old-growth stands will be those with trees containing individuals of age greater than 300 years and having old-growth stature and development.

### **Cultural and Paleontological Resource Notifications**

13. WPX is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
14. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the Authorized Officer (AO). WPX will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. WPX, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
15. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), WPX must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), WPX must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
16. WPX is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
17. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, WPX or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

### **Operations**

18. All activities would be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans. This would include acquiring all required State and Rio Blanco County permits, implementing all applicable mitigation measures required by each permit, and effectively coordinating with existing facility ROW holders.
19. The operator shall prevent use by migratory birds of reserve pits that store or are expected to store fluids which may pose a risk to migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds and

raptors during completion and after completion activities have ceased. Methods may include netting or other alternative methods that effectively prevent use and that meet BLM approval. It will be the responsibility of the operator to notify the BLM of the method that will be used to prevent use two weeks prior to when completion activities are expected to begin. The BLM approved method will be applied within 24 hours after completion.

20. WPX will limit unnecessary emissions from point or nonpoint pollution sources and prevent air quality deterioration from necessary pollution sources in accordance with all applicable state, federal and local air quality law and regulation.

#### **Post-Construction Notifications**

21. At least 90 days prior to termination of the ROW, the holder shall contact the AO to arrange a joint inspection of the ROW. The inspection will result in the development of an acceptable termination and rehabilitation plan submitted by the holder. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material (e.g., gravel or concrete), as well as final recontouring, spreading of topsoil, and seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.
22. Paint all permanent above ground structures (on-site for six months or longer) Juniper Green according to the BLM Standard Environmental Chart CC-001: June 2008.

#### **Pre & Post-Drilling Notifications**

23. Prior to beginning drilling operations, the operator will submit via Sundry Notice a description of the backflow preventer or other method used to protect water quality at diversion sites in the Piceance Creek watershed and that describes the point(s) of diversion for industrial water rights used for freshwater supply from the Piceance Creek watershed.
24. The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to well spud (breaking ground for drilling surface casing).
25. The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to commencing completion operations.
26. To indicate ownership of aquifer zone impacts that could occur during drilling and completion operations a fluorescent dye other than Rhodamin WT should be added to all drilling fluids used during the surface casing drilling operations.
27. When drilling to set the conductor and surface casing, drilling fluid will be composed only of fresh water, bentonite, and/or a benign lost circulation material that does not pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment (e.g., cedar bark, shredded cane stalks, mineral fiber and hair, mica flakes, ground and sized limestone or marble, wood, nut hulls, corncobs, or cotton hulls).

#### **Resource-Specific Mitigation During Construction, Drilling, and Production:**

##### **Access and Transportation**

28. BLM Road 1148 will be maintained by the applicant in the existing or improved condition throughout the duration of the project.
29. All activity shall cease when soils or roads surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless approved by the Authorized Officer.
30. WPX will treat all access roads with water and/or a chemical dust suppressant during construction and drilling activities so that there is not a visible dust trail behind vehicles. Any



technique other than the use of freshwater as a dust suppressant on BLM lands will require prior written approval from BLM.

31. To protect surface waters below the project area, keep road inlet and outlet ditches, sediment retention basins, and culverts free of obstructions, particularly before and during spring runoff and summer convective storms. Provide adequate drainage spacing to avoid accumulation of water in ditches or on road surfaces.
32. Install culverts and low-water crossings with adequate armoring of inlet and outlet. Patrol areas susceptible to road or watershed damage during periods of high runoff.
33. Locate drainage dips and drainage ditches in such a manner as to avoid discharge onto unstable terrain such as headwalls or slumps. Provide adequate spacing to avoid accumulation of water in ditches or dips.
34. To reduce erosion adjacent to roads and protect water quality in downstream public lands by maintaining the drainage features of the access roads, access roads will be surfaced with six inches of road base and/or gravel. Maintenance will include restoring the travel surface shape, road surfacing to maintaining an effective all-weather surface during construction, drilling, and production of the wells.

#### *Hazardous or solid wastes*

35. Comply with all Federal, State and/or local laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to onshore orders and notices to lessees, addressing the emission of and/or the handling, use, and release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment. All spills or leakages of oil, gas, produced water, toxic liquids or waste materials, blowouts, fires, shall be reported by the operator in accordance with the regulations and as prescribed in applicable orders or notices.
36. Where required by law or regulation to develop a plan for the prevention of releases or the recovery of a release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, provide a current copy of said plan to the BLM WRFO.
37. All substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment shall be stored in appropriate containers. Fluids that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, including but not limited to produced water, shall be stored in appropriate containers and in secondary containment systems at 110% of the largest vessel's capacity. Secondary fluid containment systems, including but not limited to tank batteries shall be lined with a minimum 24 mil impermeable liner.
38. Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
39. As a reasonable and prudent lessee/operator in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the BLM WRFO (970) 878-3800.
40. As a reasonable and prudent lessees/operator and/or right-of-way holder in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any substance that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of that substance's status as exempt or non-



exempt. Where the lessee/operator or right-of-way holder fails, refuses or neglects to provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any quantity of a substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, the BLM WRFO may take measures to clean-up and test air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils at the lessee/operator's expense. Such action will not relieve the lessee/operator of any liability or responsibility.

#### **Pre-Reclamation Notification**

41. The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified 24 hours prior to beginning all reclamation activities associated with this project via email or by phone. Reclamation activities may include, but are not limited to, seed bed preparation that requires disturbance of surface soils, seeding, or constructing exclosures (e.g., fences) to exclude livestock from reclaimed areas.

#### **Reclamation and Weed Management**

42. All seed tags will be submitted to the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended via Sundry Notice. The sundry will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name and phone number of the contractor that performed the work, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, an estimate of the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
43. To reduce erosion and minimize noxious weed establishment, all areas of the disturbance where it is not necessary to keep the area free of vegetation shall be seeded with the Standard Seed Mix 2, as shown in the below table.

Variety	Common Name	Scientific Name	Rate (Lbs. PLS/acre)
Arriba	Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
Whitmar	Bluebunch wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	4
Rimrock	Indian ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3.5
Lodorn	Green Needlegrass	<i>Nassella viridula</i>	2.5
Timp	Northern Sweetvetch	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	3
	Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5

44. The BLM recommends Standard Seed Mix 2 for all reclamation activities. Seeding rates are shown for drill seeding rates in the above table, and should be doubled for broadcast application. Seed should be applied anytime between mid-September and mid-March. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, contact the designated Natural Resource Specialist

- (NRS) prior to seeding for approval. Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Topsoil stockpiles must be seeded immediately as part of Phase I interim reclamation.
45. All seed used must be certified and free of noxious weeds. All seed tags will be submitted to the designated NRS within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended. Documentation shall be provided with the seed tags to address the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding of re-contoured areas) and, if applicable, the name and contact information of the contractor who performed the work, the seeding method (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), an as-built shape-file of the area seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
46. If, after three growing seasons, the following success criteria are not achieved then the steps will be reassessed in consultation with the BLM WRFO and additional seeding at an appropriate seeding window will occur. Success criteria to achieve:
- a) Vegetation monitoring (method approved by the BLM) reveals vegetation with eighty percent similarity of desired foliar cover, bare ground, and shrub and or forb density in relation to the identified DPC. In the absence of specified DPC data, an agreed upon reference site or AIM data would serve as the DPC. Vegetative cover values for woodland or shrubland sites are based on the capability of those sites in an herbaceous state.
  - b) The resulting plant community must have composition of at least five desirable plant species, and no one species may exceed 70 percent relative cover to ensure that site species diversity is achieved. Desirable species include native species from the surrounding site, species listed in the range/ecological site description, or species from the BLM approved seed mix.
47. The operator will implement an integrated weed management plan according to BLM manual 9015-Integrated Weed Management (BLM 1992) and maintain this treatment through approval of final reclamation of the project. Prior to the season of construction, WPX must submit Pesticide Use Proposals for the use of herbicides appropriate for control/eradication of the known noxious and invasive nonnative species.
48. In accordance with the 1997 White River RMP/ROD, all trees removed in the process of construction shall be purchased from the BLM. Trees should first be used in reclamation efforts and then any excess material made available for firewood or other uses.
- a) First, woody material will be chipped and stockpiled for later use in reclamation. Woods chips can be incorporated into the topsoil layer to add an organic component to the soil to aid in reclamation success.
  - b) Woody materials, not used for woods chips, required for reclamation shall be removed in whole with limbs intact and shall be stockpiled along the margins of the authorized use area separate from the topsoil piles. Once the disturbance has been recontoured and reseeded, stockpiled woody material shall be scattered across the reclaimed area where the material originated. Redistribution of woody debris will not exceed 20-30% ground cover. Limbed material shall be scattered across reclaimed areas in a manner that avoids the development of a mulch layer that suppresses growth or reproduction of desirable vegetation. Woody material will be distributed in such a way to avoid large concentrations of heavy fuels and to effectively deter vehicle use.
    - a. Woody materials that are to be stockpiled along margins and not used in the topsoil should not exceed pile dimensions of 8 x 8 x 8 feet.

Materials used in the stockpiles should be a variety of diameters, but should be no smaller than 6 inches in diameter. Additionally the piles should be no less than 30 feet apart.

- c) Trees that must be removed for construction and are not required for reclamation shall be cut down to a stump height of 6 inches or less prior to other heavy equipment operation. These trees shall be cut in four foot lengths (down to 4 inches diameter) and placed in manageable stacks immediately adjacent to a public road to facilitate removal for company use or removal by the public.
49. Final reclamation for abandonment of the site will use the seed mix and reclamation practices recommended by BLM at that time.

### **Information Sharing & Reclamation Monitoring**

50. In an attempt to track interim and final reclamation of federal actions related to the development of federal mineral resources, the operator shall provide the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* with geospatial 'as-built' data in a format compatible with the WRFO's ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) (e.g., GIS point and polygon features). These data shall be submitted via Sundry Notice (SN) and will be used to accurately locate and identify all geographic as-built (i.e., constructed and design implemented) features (including well pad total disturbance, rights-of-ways, access roads, pipelines, or any other disturbance feature associated with this project).
- These data shall be submitted within 60 days of construction completion. If the operator is unable to submit the required information within the specified time period, the operator shall notify the designated Natural Resource Specialist via email or by phone, and provide justification supporting an extension of the required data submission time period.
  - GIS polygon features may include, but are not limited to: full well pad footprints (including all stormwater and design features), constructed access roads/widths, existing roads that were upgraded/widths, and pipeline corridors.
  - Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. If possible, both (2) and (3) should be submitted for each as-built feature. Geospatial data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the *Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata* from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions shall be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

If the operator is unable to send the data electronically, the operator shall submit the data on compact disk(s) to:

BLM, White River Field Office

Attn: Natural Resource Specialist  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, Colorado 81641

Internal and external review of the reporting process and the adequacy of the associated information to meet established goals will be conducted on an on-going basis. New information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the request, as appropriate. Subsequent permit application processing may be dependent upon successful execution of this request, as stated above.

If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the **Proposed Action changes**, the operator shall submit updated GIS "As-Built" data to designated Natural Resource Specialist within 7 calendar days of the change. This information shall be **submitted via Sundry Notice**.

51. The operator will be required to meet with the WRFO reclamation staff in March or April of each calendar year and present a comprehensive work plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide information pertaining to reclamation activities that are expected to occur during the current growing season. Operators shall also provide a map that shows all reclamation sites where some form of reclamation activity is expected to occur during the current growing season.
52. A Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email and as a hard-copy to WRFO Reclamation Coordinator, Brett Smithers ([brett\\_smithers@blm.gov](mailto:brett_smithers@blm.gov)). Please submit the hardcopy to:

BLM, White River Field Office  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, Colorado 81641  
Attn: Brett Smithers

The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted annually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the Proposed Action until it is determined that reclamation of the site has met all required objectives of that particular reclamation phase.

Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, UTM coordinates (using the NAD83 datum, Zone 13N coordinate system), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), the COC number, legal description, , project description, date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site taken from permanent photo points, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), a diagram showing where reclamation has occurred with photo points identified and noted, reclamation status (e.g., Phase I Interim, Phase II Interim, or Final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, percent of the disturbed area that has been reclaimed, method used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., qualitative or quantitative), technique used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., ocular, line-intercept, etc.), date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), additional notes as needed, and contact information for the person responsible for developing the report.

The report will be accompanied with maps and GIS data showing each discrete point o (i.e., well pad), polygon (i.e., area where seed was applied for Phase I and/or Phase II interim reclamation or area reclaimed for final reclamation), or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. Geospatial data shall be submitted: for each completed activity electronically to the designated BLM staff person responsible for the initial request and in accordance with WRFO geospatial data submittal standards (available from WRFO GIS Staff, or on the WRFO website). Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report.

Every third year, a vegetation monitoring report should accompany the status report. The reclamation status report will be submitted electronically via the most current data management system. Contact your WRFO project lead (NRS/Realty Specialist) with any questions. Any changes to the project status or related information can also be provided through the most current data management system.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring of drilling, production, and post-production activities will be conducted by White River Field Office staff during construction of well pads, access roads, and pipelines. Specific mitigation developed in the associated Categorical Exclusion and the lease terms and conditions will be followed. The Operator will be notified of compliance related issues in writing, and depending on the nature of the issue(s), will be provided 30 days to resolve such issues.

NAME OF PREPARER: Brett Smithers

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



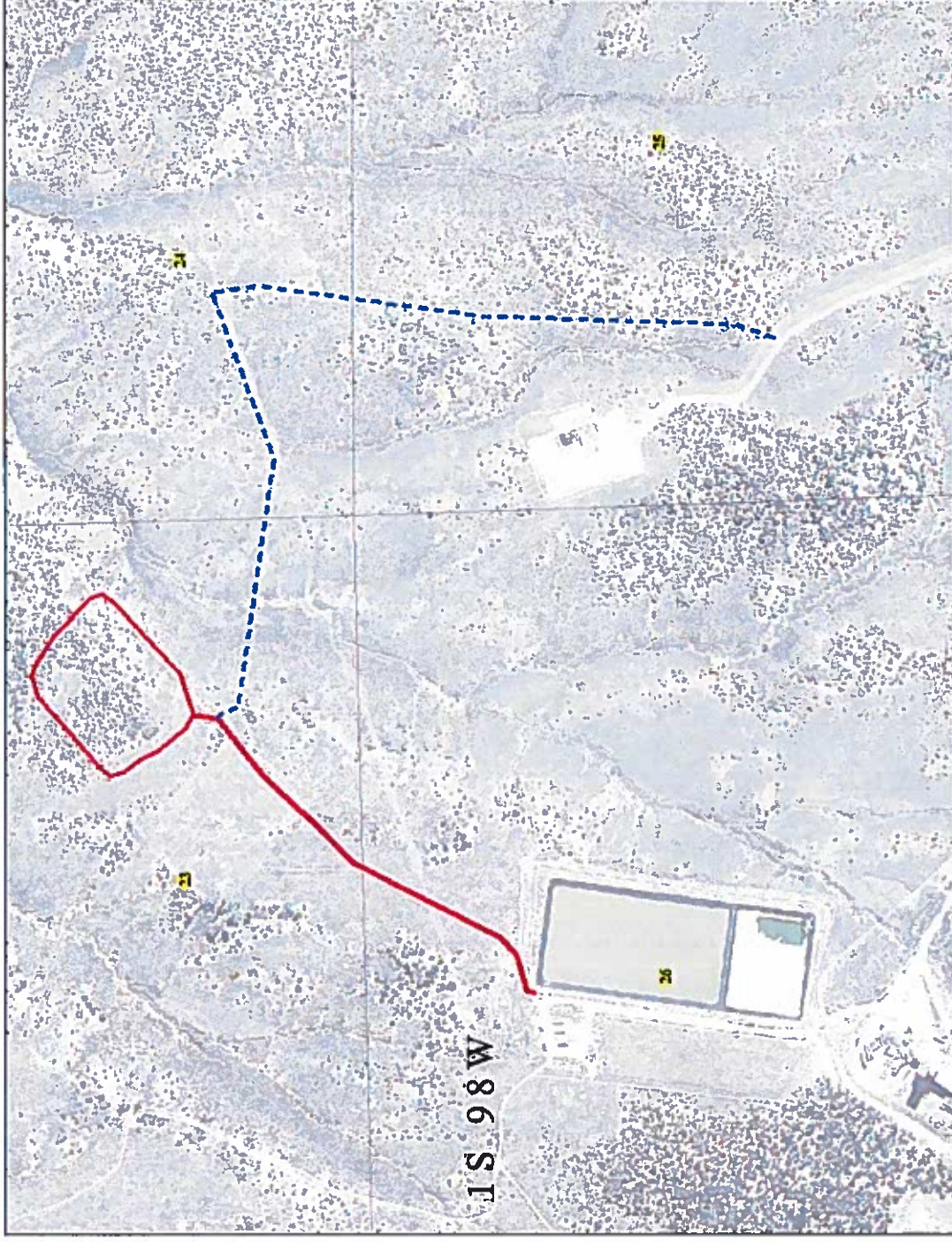
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:

07/01/2014

ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1. Project area map.





**Figure 1.** The image above illustrates the geographic location of the RGU 43-23-198 well pad and associated road and pipeline infrastructure that was reviewed in CO-110-2013-0084-EA. The approved access corridor is symbolized as a red line, the approved well pad is symbolized as a red polygon and the approved pipeline corridor is symbolized as a blue dotted line.



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
White River Field Office  
220 E Market St  
Meeker, CO 81641

## DECISION

**PROJECT NAME:** WPX's request to drill an additional 10 wells on the existing RGU 43-23-198 well pad

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NUMBER:** DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0082-CX

**DECISION:** It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0082-CX, authorizing drilling and maintenance activities for the proposed ten natural gas wells on the existing RGU 43-23-198 location.

**MITIGATION:** The following mitigation is based on that found in DOI-BLM-CO-110-2013-0084-EA and applies to drilling and maintenance activities associated with the proposed ten natural gas wells:

### **Timing Limitations**

1. Activities (including construction, drilling etc.) associated with the Proposed Action will not be permitted to take place from January 1 through April 30 to avoid disruption of big game during the critical winter period. The WRFO will except/modify RMP-prescribed timing limitations for those projects (via Sundry Notice) where there is written documentation affirming consistency with the WMP.

### **Pre-Construction Activities and Notifications**

2. The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to beginning all construction-related activities associated with this project that result in disturbance of surface soils. Construction-related activities may include, but are not limited to, pad and road construction, clearing pipeline corridors, trenching, etc. Notification of all construction-related activities, regardless of size, that result in disturbance of surface soils as a result of this project is required.
3. Construction activity should take place entirely within the areas authorized in the ROW grants and temporary use permits.
4. Construction equipment shall be cleaned prior to entering public land at a location and in a manner that does not result in further weed spread.
5. Any excavations into the underlying native sedimentary stone must be monitored by a permitted paleontologist. The monitoring paleontologist must be present before the start of excavations that may impact bedrock.

6. The forty acre area around the proposed well pad 42-26 198 center stake must be inventoried before construction to determine if any more fossil bones have been exposed in the area where a Titanotherium skull was recorded during earlier inventory efforts.
7. Prior to any construction, a representative will coordinate with the appropriate WRFO Rangeland Management Specialist (Mary Taylor 970-878-3807) to conduct a field inspection of the rangeland improvement project (water line) and address how to maintain the function of the waterline and ensure that it is fully functional prior to scheduled grazing use in June of 2014. The operator will repair any future damage to this water line caused by operational activities of the pit and associated facilities. Any damage to the pasture division fence caused by construction must be repaired to BLM specifications in a timely manner (to prevent livestock movement between these two pastures).
8. WPX shall notify NSI of their plans to drill wells on both well pads prior to the commencement of surface disturbing activities to coordinate the mobilization of equipment to the drill site and drilling operations to minimize interference with NSI operations.
9. WPX shall inform NSI during drilling and cementing of the surface casing and during fracing operations.
10. To assure that the road plans will be protective of soil resources, a road plan will be submitted via Sundry Notice for BLM approval for well pad 43-23-198 that describes and includes the following:
  - d) An updated plan diagram that shows proposed BMPs for culvert outlets and more specific design standards of the planned access roads planned.
  - e) Some documentation of coordination of the access road design with Natural Soda from the plant to the beginning of BLM Road 1148.
  - f) How public access will be maintained on BLM Road 1148 during construction, drilling and production.
11. To avoid additional disturbance that may result in erosion of soils around pads, when brush is not sufficient to maintain perimeter brush barrier as shown on Plat 5 E for well pads, waddles or fiber rolls will be used instead of toe trenches for perimeter control. Alternatively a suitable BMP plan may be developed to be approved by BLM that does not require trenches for perimeter control.
12. During pad, road, and pipeline layout, consideration will be given to maintaining old-growth stands in their entirety. Old-growth stands will be those with trees containing individuals of age greater than 300 years and having old-growth stature and development.

#### **Cultural and Paleontological Resource Notifications**

13. WPX is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
14. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the Authorized Officer (AO). WPX will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate

mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. WPX, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.

15. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), WPX must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), WPX must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
16. WPX is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands.
17. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, WPX or any of his agents must stop work immediately at that site, immediately contact the BLM Paleontology Coordinator, and make every effort to protect the site from further impacts, including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The BLM or designated paleontologist will evaluate the discovery and take action to protect or remove the resource within 10 working days. Within 10 days, the operator will be allowed to continue construction through the site, or will be given the choice of either (a) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for stabilizing the fossil resource in place and avoiding further disturbance to the fossil resource, or (b) following the Paleontology Coordinator's instructions for mitigating impacts to the fossil resource prior to continuing construction through the project area.

#### **Operations**

18. All activities would be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, statutes, regulations, standards, and implementation plans. This would include acquiring all required State and Rio Blanco County permits, implementing all applicable mitigation measures required by each permit, and effectively coordinating with existing facility ROW holders.
19. The operator shall prevent use by migratory birds of reserve pits that store or are expected to store fluids which may pose a risk to migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds and raptors during completion and after completion activities have ceased. Methods may include netting or other alternative methods that effectively prevent use and that meet BLM approval. It will be the responsibility of the operator to notify the BLM of the method that will be used to prevent use two weeks prior to when completion activities are expected to begin. The BLM approved method will be applied within 24 hours after completion.
20. WPX will limit unnecessary emissions from point or nonpoint pollution sources and prevent air quality deterioration from necessary pollution sources in accordance with all applicable state, federal and local air quality law and regulation.

#### **Post-Construction Notifications**

21. At least 90 days prior to termination of the ROW, the holder shall contact the AO to arrange a joint inspection of the ROW. The inspection will result in the development of an acceptable

termination and rehabilitation plan submitted by the holder. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, removal of facilities, drainage structures, and surface material (e.g., gravel or concrete), as well as final recontouring, spreading of topsoil, and seeding. The Authorized Officer must approve the plan in writing prior to the holder's commencement of any termination activities.

22. Paint all permanent above ground structures (on-site for six months or longer) Juniper Green according to the BLM Standard Environmental Chart CC-001: June 2008.

#### **Pre & Post-Drilling Notifications**

23. Prior to beginning drilling operations, the operator will submit via Sundry Notice a description of the backflow preventer or other method used to protect water quality at diversion sites in the Piceance Creek watershed and that describes the point(s) of diversion for industrial water rights used for freshwater supply from the Piceance Creek watershed.
24. The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to well spud (breaking ground for drilling surface casing).
25. The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified via email or phone 24 hours prior to commencing completion operations.
26. To indicate ownership of aquifer zone impacts that could occur during drilling and completion operations a fluorescent dye other than Rhodamin WT should be added to all drilling fluids used during the surface casing drilling operations.
27. When drilling to set the conductor and surface casing, drilling fluid will be composed only of fresh water, bentonite, and/or a benign lost circulation material that does not pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment (e.g., cedar bark, shredded cane stalks, mineral fiber and hair, mica flakes, ground and sized limestone or marble, wood, nut hulls, corncobs, or cotton hulls).

#### **Resource-Specific Mitigation During Construction, Drilling, and Production: Access and Transportation**

28. BLM Road 1148 will be maintained by the applicant in the existing or improved condition throughout the duration of the project.
29. All activity shall cease when soils or roads surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless approved by the Authorized Officer.
30. WPX will treat all access roads with water and/or a chemical dust suppressant during construction and drilling activities so that there is not a visible dust trail behind vehicles. Any technique other than the use of freshwater as a dust suppressant on BLM lands will require prior written approval from BLM.
31. To protect surface waters below the project area, keep road inlet and outlet ditches, sediment retention basins, and culverts free of obstructions, particularly before and during spring runoff and summer convective storms. Provide adequate drainage spacing to avoid accumulation of water in ditches or on road surfaces.
32. Install culverts and low-water crossings with adequate armoring of inlet and outlet. Patrol areas susceptible to road or watershed damage during periods of high runoff.
33. Locate drainage dips and drainage ditches in such a manner as to avoid discharge onto unstable terrain such as headwalls or slumps. Provide adequate spacing to avoid accumulation of water in ditches or dips.

34. To reduce erosion adjacent to roads and protect water quality in downstream public lands by maintaining the drainage features of the access roads, access roads will be surfaced with six inches of road base and/or gravel. Maintenance will include restoring the travel surface shape, road surfacing to maintaining an effective all-weather surface during construction, drilling, and production of the wells.

*Hazardous or solid wastes*

35. Comply with all Federal, State and/or local laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to onshore orders and notices to lessees, addressing the emission of and/or the handling, use, and release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment. All spills or leakages of oil, gas, produced water, toxic liquids or waste materials, blowouts, fires, shall be reported by the operator in accordance with the regulations and as prescribed in applicable orders or notices.
36. Where required by law or regulation to develop a plan for the prevention of releases or the recovery of a release of any substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, provide a current copy of said plan to the BLM WRFO.
37. All substances that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment shall be stored in appropriate containers. Fluids that pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, including but not limited to produced water, shall be stored in appropriate containers and in secondary containment systems at 110% of the largest vessel's capacity. Secondary fluid containment systems, including but not limited to tank batteries shall be lined with a minimum 24 mil impermeable liner.
38. Construction sites and all facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition at all times; waste materials shall be disposed of promptly at an appropriate waste disposal site. "Waste" means all discarded matter including, but not limited to, human waste, trash, garbage, refuse, oil drums, petroleum products, ashes, and equipment.
39. As a reasonable and prudent lessee/operator in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will report all emissions or releases that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of a substance's status as exempt or nonexempt and regardless of fault, to the BLM WRFO (970) 878-3800.
40. As a reasonable and prudent lessees/operator and/or right-of-way holder in the oil and gas industry, acting in good faith, all lessees/operators and right-of-way holders will provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any substance that may pose a risk of harm to human health or the environment, regardless of that substance's status as exempt or non-exempt. Where the lessee/operator or right-of-way holder fails, refuses or neglects to provide for the immediate clean-up and testing of air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils contaminated by the emission or release of any quantity of a substance that poses a risk of harm to human health or the environment, the BLM WRFO may take measures to clean-up and test air, water (surface and/or ground) and soils at the lessee/operator's expense. Such action will not relieve the lessee/operator of any liability or responsibility.

**Pre-Reclamation Notification**

41. The *designated Natural Resource Specialist* will be notified 24 hours prior to beginning all reclamation activities associated with this project via email or by phone. Reclamation activities may include, but are not limited to, seed bed preparation that requires disturbance

of surface soils, seeding, or constructing exclosures (e.g., fences) to exclude livestock from reclaimed areas.

#### **Reclamation and Weed Management**

42. All seed tags will be submitted to the *designated Natural Resource Specialist within 14 calendar days* from the time the seeding activities have ended via Sundry Notice. The sundry will include the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding well pad cut and fill slopes, seeding pipeline corridor, etc.). In addition, the SN will include the well or well pad number associated with the seeding activity, if applicable, the name and phone number of the contractor that performed the work, the method used to apply the seed (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), whether the seeding activity represents interim or final reclamation, an estimate of the total acres seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
43. To reduce erosion and minimize noxious weed establishment, all areas of the disturbance where it is not necessary to keep the area free of vegetation shall be seeded with the Standard Seed Mix 2, as shown in the below table.

Variety	Common Name	Scientific Name	Rate (Lbs. PLS/acre)
Arriba	Western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	4
Whitmar	Bluebunch wheatgrass	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	4
Rimrock	Indian ricegrass	<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	3.5
Lodorn	Green Needlegrass	<i>Nassella viridula</i>	2.5
Timp	Northern Sweetvetch	<i>Hedysarum boreale</i>	3
	Scarlet Globemallow	<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	0.5

44. The BLM recommends Standard Seed Mix 2 for all reclamation activities. Seeding rates are shown for drill seeding rates in the above table, and should be doubled for broadcast application. Seed should be applied anytime between mid-September and mid-March. If an alternate date of seeding is requested, contact the designated Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) prior to seeding for approval. Seed mixture rates are Pure Live Seed (PLS) pounds per acre. Topsoil stockpiles must be seeded immediately as part of Phase I interim reclamation.
45. All seed used must be certified and free of noxious weeds. All seed tags will be submitted to the designated NRS within 14 calendar days from the time the seeding activities have ended. Documentation shall be provided with the seed tags to address the purpose of the seeding activity (i.e., seeding of re-contoured areas) and, if applicable, the name and contact information of the contractor who performed the work, the seeding method (e.g., broadcast, hydro-seeded, drilled), an as-built shape-file of the area seeded, an attached map that clearly identifies all disturbed areas that were seeded, and the date the seed was applied.
46. If, after three growing seasons, the following success criteria are not achieved then the steps will be reassessed in consultation with the BLM WRFO and additional seeding at an appropriate seeding window will occur. Success criteria to achieve:



- c) Vegetation monitoring (method approved by the BLM) reveals vegetation with eighty percent similarity of desired foliar cover, bare ground, and shrub and or forb density in relation to the identified DPC. In the absence of specified DPC data, an agreed upon reference site or AIM data would serve as the DPC. Vegetative cover values for woodland or shrubland sites are based on the capability of those sites in an herbaceous state.
  - d) The resulting plant community must have composition of at least five desirable plant species, and no one species may exceed 70 percent relative cover to ensure that site species diversity is achieved. Desirable species include native species from the surrounding site, species listed in the range/ecological site description, or species from the BLM approved seed mix.
47. The operator will implement an integrated weed management plan according to BLM manual 9015-Integrated Weed Management (BLM 1992) and maintain this treatment through approval of final reclamation of the project. Prior to the season of construction, WPX must submit Pesticide Use Proposals for the use of herbicides appropriate for control/eradication of the known noxious and invasive nonnative species.
48. In accordance with the 1997 White River RMP/ROD, all trees removed in the process of construction shall be purchased from the BLM. Trees should first be used in reclamation efforts and then any excess material made available for firewood or other uses.
- d) First, woody material will be chipped and stockpiled for later use in reclamation. Woods chips can be incorporated into the topsoil layer to add an organic component to the soil to aid in reclamation success.
  - e) Woody materials, not used for woods chips, required for reclamation shall be removed in whole with limbs intact and shall be stockpiled along the margins of the authorized use area separate from the topsoil piles. Once the disturbance has been recontoured and reseeded, stockpiled woody material shall be scattered across the reclaimed area where the material originated. Redistribution of woody debris will not exceed 20-30% ground cover. Limbed material shall be scattered across reclaimed areas in a manner that avoids the development of a mulch layer that suppresses growth or reproduction of desirable vegetation. Woody material will be distributed in such a way to avoid large concentrations of heavy fuels and to effectively deter vehicle use.
    - a. Woody materials that are to be stockpiled along margins and not used in the topsoil should not exceed pile dimensions of 8 x 8 x 8 feet. Materials used in the stockpiles should be a variety of diameters, but should be no smaller than 6 inches in diameter. Additionally the piles should be no less than 30 feet apart.
  - f) Trees that must be removed for construction and are not required for reclamation shall be cut down to a stump height of 6 inches or less prior to other heavy equipment operation. These trees shall be cut in four foot lengths (down to 4 inches diameter) and placed in manageable stacks immediately adjacent to a public road to facilitate removal for company use or removal by the public.
49. Final reclamation for abandonment of the site will use the seed mix and reclamation practices recommended by BLM at that time.

## **Information Sharing & Reclamation Monitoring**

50. In an attempt to track interim and final reclamation of federal actions related to the development of federal mineral resources, the operator shall provide the *designated Natural Resource Specialist* with geospatial ‘as-built’ data in a format compatible with the WRFO’s ESRI ArcGIS Geographic Information System (GIS) (e.g., GIS point and polygon features). These data shall be submitted via Sundry Notice (SN) and will be used to accurately locate and identify all geographic as-built (i.e., constructed and design implemented) features (including well pad total disturbance, rights-of-ways, access roads, pipelines, or any other disturbance feature associated with this project).

- These data shall be submitted within 60 days of construction completion. If the operator is unable to submit the required information within the specified time period, the operator shall notify the designated Natural Resource Specialist via email or by phone, and provide justification supporting an extension of the required data submission time period.
- GIS polygon features may include, but are not limited to: full well pad footprints (including all stormwater and design features), constructed access roads/widths, existing roads that were upgraded/widths, and pipeline corridors.
- Acceptable data formats are: (1) corrected global positioning system (GPS) files with sub-meter accuracy or better; (2) ESRI shapefiles or geodatabases; or (3) AutoCAD .dwg or .dxf files. If possible, both (2) and (3) should be submitted for each as-built feature. Geospatial data must be submitted in UTM Zone 13N, NAD 83, in units of meters. Data may be submitted as: (1) an email attachment or (2) on a standard compact disk (CD) in compressed (WinZip only) or uncompressed format. All data shall include metadata, for each submitted layer, that conforms to the *Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata* from the Federal Geographic Data Committee standards. Questions shall be directed to WRFO BLM GIS staff at (970) 878-3800.

If the operator is unable to send the data electronically, the operator shall submit the data on compact disk(s) to:

BLM, White River Field Office  
Attn: Natural Resource Specialist  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, Colorado 81641

Internal and external review of the reporting process and the adequacy of the associated information to meet established goals will be conducted on an on-going basis. New information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the request, as appropriate. Subsequent permit application processing may be dependent upon successful execution of this request, as stated above.

If for any reason the location or orientation of the geographic feature associated with the **Proposed Action changes**, the operator shall submit updated GIS “As-Built” data to

designated Natural Resource Specialist within 7 calendar days of the change. This information shall be **submitted via Sundry Notice**.

51. The operator will be required to meet with the WRFO reclamation staff in March or April of each calendar year and present a comprehensive work plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide information pertaining to reclamation activities that are expected to occur during the current growing season. Operators shall also provide a map that shows all reclamation sites where some form of reclamation activity is expected to occur during the current growing season.
52. A Reclamation Status Report will be submitted electronically via email and as a hard-copy to WRFO Reclamation Coordinator, Brett Smithers ([brett\\_smithers@blm.gov](mailto:brett_smithers@blm.gov)). Please submit the hardcopy to:

BLM, White River Field Office  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, Colorado 81641  
Attn: Brett Smithers

The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted annually for all actions that require disturbance of surface soils on BLM-administered lands as a result of the Proposed Action until it is determined that reclamation of the site has met all required objectives of that particular reclamation phase.

Actions may include, but are not limited to, well pad and road construction, construction of ancillary facilities, or power line and pipeline construction. The Reclamation Status Report will be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year, and will include the well number, API number, UTM coordinates (using the NAD83 datum, Zone 13N coordinate system), project description (e.g., well pad, pipeline, etc.), the COC number, legal description, , project description, date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site taken from permanent photo points, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), a diagram showing where reclamation has occurred with photo points identified and noted, reclamation status (e.g., Phase I Interim, Phase II Interim, or Final), whether the well pad or pipeline has been re-vegetated and/or re-contoured, percent of the disturbed area that has been reclaimed, method used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., qualitative or quantitative), technique used to estimate percent area reclaimed (e.g., ocular, line-intercept, etc.), date seeded, photos of the reclaimed site, estimate of acres seeded, seeding method (e.g., broadcast, drilled, hydro-seeded, etc.), additional notes as needed, and contact information for the person responsible for developing the report.

The report will be accompanied with maps and GIS data showing each discrete point o (i.e., well pad), polygon (i.e., area where seed was applied for Phase I and/or Phase II interim reclamation or area reclaimed for final reclamation), or polyline (i.e., pipeline) feature that was included in the report. Geospatial data shall be submitted: for each completed activity electronically to the designated BLM staff person responsible for the initial request and in accordance with WRFO geospatial data submittal standards (available from WRFO GIS Staff, or on the WRFO website). Internal and external review of the WRFO Reclamation Status Report, and the process used to acquire the necessary information will be conducted annually, and new information or changes in the reporting process will be incorporated into the report.

Every third year, a vegetation monitoring report should accompany the status report. The reclamation status report will be submitted electronically via the most current data management system. Contact your WRFO project lead (NRS/Realty Specialist) with any questions. Any changes to the project status or related information can also be provided through the most current data management system.

**COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN:**

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:**

Internal scoping was initiated when the project was presented to the White River Field Office (WRFO) interdisciplinary team on 5/20/2014. External scoping was conducted by posting this project on the WRFO's on-line National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) register on 5/28/2014.

**RATIONALE:**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act. Drilling additional wells from existing well pad locations allows for further development of the oil and gas resource with reduced surface disturbance compared to new locations.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES:**

**State Director Review**

Under regulations addressed in 43 CFR 3165.3(b), any adversely affected party that contests a decision of the Authorized Officer may request an administrative review, before the State Director, either with or without oral presentation. Such request, including all supporting documentation, shall be filed in writing with the BLM Colorado State Office at 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80215 within 20 business days of the date such decision was received or considered to have been received. Upon request and showing of good cause, an extension may be granted by the State Director. Such review shall include all factors or circumstances relevant to the particular case.

**Appeal**

Any party who is adversely affected by the decision of the State Director after State Director review, under 43 CFR 3165.3(b), of a decision may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to the regulations set out in 43 CFR Part 4.

**SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:**



Field Manager

**DATE SIGNED:**

07/01/2014